



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
43rd session
Agenda item 18

MEPC 43/18/2
29 March 1999
Original: ENGLISH

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMITTEE AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Long-Term Work Plan of the Committee (up to 2006)

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document contains proposals for the long-term work plan of the Committee (up to 2006) including priorities.
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 5
<i>Related documents:</i>	Resolution A.846 (20)

1 The Committee will recall that the Assembly, at its twentieth session in 1997, approved resolution A.846(20) on the Long-term work plan of the Organization (up to 2004), which, in its annex, contained a list of subjects including high-priority items for consideration by the Committees.

2 The Assembly resolution also requested the Committees to keep their respective lists of subjects under review in the light of developments in the work of the Organization while continuing to bear in mind the directives contained in resolution A.500(XII) on the Objectives of the Organization and resolution A.777(18) on the Work methods and organization of work in the Committees and their subsidiary bodies, and to report or recommend, as necessary, to the Assembly at its twenty-first regular session in 1999.

3 Pursuant to the above Assembly resolution, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairman, prepared the objectives and the long-term work plan of the Committee (up to 2006), together with proposed priorities, as set out at annex.

4 In preparing the draft plan, the general policy that emphasis should be shifted from the development of new standards to the implementation of existing ones as well as the financial implications of the proposals to the Organization's budget were borne in mind. Although all the items in the draft plan are necessary for the enhancement of pollution prevention and control, those items which would lead to the achievement of a more effective implementation of existing standards, including the development of a safety culture and environmental conscience in all maritime activities, should receive high priority.

Action requested of the committee

5 The Committee is invited to consider and agree on its long-term work plan up to 2006 including priority items as set out at annex to this document.

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ANNEX

LONG-TERM WORK PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE

I Objectives

- 1 Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 1 and 38 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization, to encourage adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning the prevention and control of marine pollution from ships with due regard to the context of resolutions A.500(XII) and A.777(18). More immediately to promote world-wide acceptance, implementation and uniform interpretation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78) as well as the International Convention for Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC 1990).
- 2 To adhere to the principles and declaration adopted by UNCED in the field of marine environment protection and response to pollution incidents, including the principle of precautionary approach.
- 3 To provide the necessary machinery for performing any duties assigned to it and to maintain such close relationship with other bodies as may further the purposes of the Organization.
- 4 To promote, in co-operation with UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and national development agencies, IMO's programmes of technical cooperation in the field of marine environmental protection, including the management and execution of large scale projects.

II Specific subjects

- 1 Implementation, enforcement, amendment and uniform interpretation of the provisions of MARPOL 73/78 and related Codes, recommendations and guidelines, and monitoring of the effectiveness with which the Convention is implemented, including:
 - .1 enforcement mechanism and procedures for the control of ships and discharges under MARPOL 73/78;
 - .2 the examination of the role of the human element in all measures aimed at the elimination of intentional pollution and minimization of accidental discharge of harmful substances;
 - .3 penalties for infringement of provisions of MARPOL 73/78;
 - .4 review of Annexes I and II;
 - .5 review of Annex III;
 - .6 measures to promote the entry into force and implementation of Annex IV;
 - .7 clarification of application of MARPOL requirements to FPSOs and FSUs;
 - .8 identification of oil pollution sources; and
 - .9 development of guidelines including amendments to "MARPOL How to do it".

- 2 Reports regarding casualty investigations by Member States in relation to marine pollution incidents.
- 3 Reports by Parties regarding implementation of MARPOL 73/78, which is mandatory under the Convention (MEPC/Circ.318).
- 4 Follow-up action to UNCED, in particular with respect to the implementation of Agenda 21 regarding the prevention of degradation of the oceans from sea-based sources, including:
 - .1 prevention of marine pollution from offshore oil and gas activities; and
 - .2 issues arising from chapters 17 and 19 of Agenda 21.
- 5 Review of the standards for the design, construction and operation of oil and chemical tankers, including those for pollution prevention equipment.
- 6 Measures to promote the entry into force and implementation of MARPOL Annex VI on prevention of air pollution from ships, including:
 - .1 development of guidelines;
 - .2 IMO Study on greenhouse gases; and
 - .3 measures for monitoring the sulphur content of residual fuels.
- 7 Evaluation of chemicals under the provisions of Annex II to MARPOL 73/78 and the IBC Code, including:
 - .1 application of new GESAMP Hazard Profile;
 - .2 review of the list of products in the IBC Code;
 - .3 assessment of hazards of new products; and
 - .4 development of database for bulk chemicals.
- 8 Implementation of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification under MARPOL 73/78.
- 9 Identification and protection of special areas and particularly sensitive sea areas (PSSAs), including a review of resolution A.720(17).
- 10 Implementation of the ISM Code with regard to effective management for the prevention and control of marine pollution.
- 11 Implementation of the INF Code and related matters, including environmental impact assessment.
- 12 Consideration of measures to minimize the risks of introducing harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through discharges from ships' ballast water and associated sediments, with a view to

preparing a legally binding instrument on ballast water management, together with implementation guidelines thereto, for adoption by a conference in the biennium 2000-2001.

- 13 Consideration of measures to minimize the harmful effects of the use of antifouling systems for ships with a view to preparing a legally binding instrument on harmful anti-fouling systems, together with implementation guidelines thereto, for adoption by a conference in the biennium 2000-2001.
- 14 Promotion of the provision of adequate reception facilities in ports and use thereof by ships, including the application of environmentally sound techniques for the treatment and ultimate disposal of ships' wastes and the development of a practicable scheme for the establishment and operation of reception facilities.
- 15 Development of Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) procedures as well as addressing environmental indexing of ships.
- 16 Development of measures to prevent and control marine pollution from small craft.
- 17 Development of measures for the prevention of marine pollution by noxious solid substances carried in bulk.
- 18 Implementation, enforcement, amendment and uniform interpretation of the provisions of the OPRC Convention, and implementation of the OPRC Conference resolutions, including:
 - .1 national capacity building for marine pollution preparedness and response;
 - .2 promotion of bilateral and regional arrangements for marine pollution preparedness and response;
 - .3 promotion of training and transfer of technology;
 - .4 development of guidelines and training materials for response measures, including the development and updating of anti-pollution manuals; and
 - .5 extension of the OPRC Convention to include harmful substances other than oil with a view to adopting the OPRC-HNS Protocol at a conference in 2000.
- 19 Matters related to the 1973 Intervention Protocol, including revision of the list of substances and list of experts and the development of a directory for relevant centres for expertise.
- 20 Co-operation with the United Nations and other international bodies on matters of mutual interest.

III Priorities

In considering the specific subjects of the long-term work plan, the Committee agreed to give high priority to the following subjects:

- .1 extension of the OPRC Convention to cover hazardous and noxious substances;

- .2 harmful aquatic organisms in ships' ballast water;
 - .3 promotion of the provision of adequate reception facilities in ports and use thereof by ships;
 - .4 harmful effects of ships' anti-fouling systems;
 - .5 measures to promote the entry into force and implementation of Annexes IV and VI of MARPOL 73/78;
 - .6 evaluation of chemicals under the provisions of Annex II of MARPOL 73/78 and the IBC Code; and
 - .7 Review of Annexes I and II of MARPOL 73/78.
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